

Walsh-McLean House (Indonesian Embassy)
2020 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D. C.

HABS No. DC-266

HABS
WASH,
209-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
WALSH-McLEAN HOUSE
(INDONESIAN EMBASSY)

HABS No. DC-266

WASH, 202-

Location: 2020 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C.;
on the southeast corner of Massachusetts Avenue and
21st Street. UTM: 18.322520 .4308540

Present Owner: Republic of Indonesia

Present Occupant: Republic of Indonesia

Present Use: Chancery

Statement of
Significance: Originally a private residence, this detached structure
with Louis XVI details is most conspicuous for its art-
nouveau undulating walls and roof; its galleried and
sky-lit, three story, "steamship" stairhall; its pas-
tiche of applied ornament; and its colorful early occu-
pants. [Floors as in HABS D. C. Catalog.]

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Lot and Square:

The building is located in Square 95, original lots 4 and 6. The original owner also built a stable in Square 67, lot 41 (formerly parts of original lots 8 and 9).

B. Original and Subsequent Owners:

The following chain of title to the property shows the owners of the present structure and of any known preceding structures on the site:

1901 Deed April 30, 1901, recorded April 30, 1901 in
Liber 2543 folio 403

Esther E. Hopkins
Bertha Hammond et vir
To
Thomas F. Walsh

"...Esther E. Hopkins, widow of John S. Hopkins, Bertha Hammond (formerly Hopkins, sole heir at law of said John S. Hopkins, deceased) and Thomas V. Hammond, her husband, all of the District of Columbia...for and in consideration of Seventy four thousand two hundred and thirty dollars... to them paid by Thomas F. Walsh, of said District of Columbia...All of Original Lot...(6)... in Square...(95)..."

1902 Deed January 3, 1902, recorded January 4, 1902 in
Liber 2625 folio 288

Esther E. Hopkins et al
To
Thomas F. Walsh

"...All of Original Lot...(4) in Square...(95). Subject
however to an indebtedness of Fifteen thousand Dollars
(\$15,000) secured by Deed of Trust bearing date of January
6, 1896 and duly recorded in Liber No. 2079 folio 278..."

1927 Deed July 14, 1927, recorded July 19, 1927 in
Liber 5915 folio 135

American Security and Trust Company, Trustee
Carrie B. Walsh
To
American Security and Trust Company, Trustee
Evalyn McLean

"This Deed...by and between the American Security and Trust
Company, as Trustee under that certain deed in trust from
Carrie B. Walsh, dated March 25, 1919 and recorded March 27,
1919 in Liber 4169 folio 123...said Trustee acting herein
in exercise of the powers conferred by said deed in trust,
and also by and with the consent of said Carrie B. Walsh,
such consent being evidenced by her becoming a party to and
executing these presents, and said Carrie B. Walsh, of the
District of Columbia, parties hereto of the first part, and
the American Security and Trust Company and Evalyn McLean,
as Trustees under that certain deed in trust from said Evalyn
McLean, dated June 21, 1920 and recorded June 28, 1920 in
Liber 4393 folio 227..., said Trustees acting herein in exer-
cise of the powers conferred by said last mentioned deed in
trust, parties hereto of the second part.

"Witnesseth, that the said parties of the first part, for
and in consideration of the grant and conveyance hereinafter
made to said American Security and Trust Company as Trustee
under the aforesaid deed in trust recorded in Liber 4169 folio
123...and in further consideration of...(\$56,500)...do...
sell unto the said parties hereto of the second part in fee
simple...All of lots, parts of lots and parcels of land in
Squares...(222) and...(405), of which Thomas F. Walsh died
seized and possessed...

"And this deed further witnesseth, that the said parties
hereto of the second part, in consideration of the grant and
conveyance hereinabove made to them as Trustees under the
said deed in trust recorded in Liber 4393 folio 227...do

hereby grant and convey unto said American Security and Trust Company as Trustee under deed in trust recorded in Liber 4169 folio 123...the following described land and premises, with improvements, easements and appurtenances thereunto belonging,...Lot...(41) in Thomas F. Walsh's Subdivision of lots in Square...(67), as per plat recorded in Liber 26 folio 109 of the Records of the Office of the Surveyor of the District of Columbia; also Lots...(4) and ...(6) in Square...(95)..."

Also lot 60, Square 252; lots 30, 31, 32, 33 in Square 252; and part of 38 in Square 95.

"To have and to hold the land and premises described above, ...unto and to the use of the said American Security and Trust Company, as Trustee under said deed in trust recorded in Liber 4169 folio 123...in fee simple, in severalty, but in trust nevertheless..."

NOTE: The Will of Carrie B. Walsh, was recorded July 11, 1932 in Will Book No. 183, page No. 190, Registrar of Wills, District of Columbia.

1951 Deed December 19, 1951, recorded January 2, 1952 in Liber 9623 folio 312

American Security and Trust Company, Trustee
To
Republic of Indonesia

"This Deed...by and between American Security and Trust Company, Trustee under Deed in Trust from Carrie B. Walsh dated March 25, 1919 and recorded March 27, 1919 in Liber 4169 folio 123...and as Trustee under Deed in Trust from American Security and Trust Company, as Trustee and Evalyn McLean, dated July 14, 1927 and recorded in Liber 5915 folio 135... acting herein in exercise of the powers conferred by said Deeds in Trust, party hereto of the first part; and Republic of Indonesia, party hereto of the second part...for and in consideration of Three Hundred Thirty-five Thousand (\$335,000) Dollars...Original Lots...(4) and...(6) in Square...(95)..."

Stable:

1901 Deed December 30, 1901, recorded December 31, 1901 in Liber 2595 folio 285

Swope and Hamilton, Trustees
To
Thomas F. Walsh

"...part of original lot...(8) in Square...(67); beginning for the same at the Northeast corner of said lot and running thence South along the rear line thereof...42 feet to the Southeast corner thereof; thence West along the South line thereof...47 feet; thence North...42 feet and thence East...47 feet to the point of beginning; together with a right of way for alley purposes over a part of said lot; beginning at a point in the North line thereof distant...47 feet from the Northeast corner thereof and running West along the North line of said lot...5 feet; thence South...62 feet to the South line thereof; thence East...5 feet and thence North...62 feet to the point of beginning..."

1901 Deed December 19, 1901, recorded December 31, 1901 in
Liber 2595 folio 289

Edward J. Stellwagen et ux, Charlotte M.
To
Thomas F. Walsh

"...Witnesseth that the parties of the first part for and in consideration of - \$3260.62 - lawful money of the United States of America to them in hand paid by the party of the second part...have...conveyed...the following described land and premises...distinguished as part of original lot...(9) in Square...(67); beginning for the same at the Northeast corner of said lot and running thence South along the rear line thereof...55 feet...6 inches to the Southeast corner thereof; thence West along the South line thereof...47 feet, thence North...55 feet...6 inches and thence East...47 feet to the point of beginning...together with a right of way for alley purposes over a part of said lot beginning at a point in the North line thereof distant ...47 feet from the Northeast corner thereof and running thence West along the North line of said lot...5 feet thence South...55 feet...6 inches to the South line thereof; thence East...5 feet and thence North...55 feet...6 inches to the beginning..."

NOTE: April 7, 1902 Thomas F. Walsh subdivided the East 47 feet by 97.5 feet of original lots 8 and 9, Square 67, into lot 41. Recorded in Subdivisions Book 26 folio 109, Office of the Surveyor, District of Columbia.

Source: Recorder of Deeds, Washington, D.C.

C. Date of Erection:

The building permit was issued in October 1901. In 1902, Thomas F. Walsh was first listed in the city directory at 2020 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.. Walsh's daughter, Mrs. Evalyn Walsh McLean, wrote in Father Struck It Rich that the family moved into the house in the fall of 1903.

D. Building Permits:

The applications for the following building permits were filed by the architect, contractor or owner's agent and provide significant data:

No. 690, October 16, 1901

Permit to build dwelling

Owner: Thomas F. Walsh

Architect: Henry Anderson [Andersen], 1183 Broadway, N.Y.C.

Builder: Newman & Smith, 367 Pleasant Avenue, N.Y.C.

Estimated cost: \$300,000.

No. 1531, April 9, 1902

Permit to build two-story private brick stable

Owner: Thomas F. Walsh

Architect: L. Morris

Builder: Charles A. Langley

Location: Lot 41, Square 67 (rear 2118 Mass. Ave.)

Estimated cost: \$15,000.

No. 962, November 18, 1902

Permit for Repairs, Alterations, etc.

Owner: Thomas F. Walsh

Mechanic: Otis Elevator Co.

Estimated cost: \$5705.

"To install an electric dumbwaiter...and an electric elevator"

No. 131, July 20, 1903

Permit to erect a pergola with brick wall

Owner: Thomas F. Walsh

Architect: F. W. Carlyle

Mechanic: George Hughes

Estimated cost: \$1500.

"The above application is for a Pergola for the ornamental treatment of running vines and flowers. The brick wall in rear to be 9'-0" high and the front of large columns. The roof will be of wooden strips...on rear of lot on private property."

No. 262006, July 6, 1943

Permit to repair carriage house at rear of 2118 Mass. Ave.

Owner: Mrs. Edward B. McLean

Occupant: War Workers Club
Location: Lot 41, Square 67
Value of improvement: \$8550.
"Renovate, remodel and install additional facilities - namely plumbing, electrical and construction of two sets of exit stairs."

Source: Record Group 351, Records of the District of Columbia, Building Permits 1877-1949, the Legislative and Natural Resources Branch, Civil Div., National Archives/Records Service, Washington, D. C.

E. Alterations and Additions:

The Indonesian government has constructed an addition on the south side at basement level and partitioned the fourth floor ballroom into offices. A 1911 photograph (listed under "Important Old Views") shows that the carriage porch was once glazed.

F. Architect: Henry Andersen, New York City

Henry Andersen was born in Flensburg, Denmark June 20, 1852. At the age of 16 he was graduated from a private college in Copenhagen. After serving a few years with a mason contractor, he attended the Technical and Polytechnical Institute in Copenhagen. Andersen completed his studies in architecture at the Royal Academy of Art in Copenhagen and then emigrated to the United States where he was engaged in the offices of several architects before starting his own practice in New York in 1892.

Andersen designed several churches and many residences, apartment houses, stores and warehouses. Among his works were the Don Carlos Apartments, 76th Street and Madison Avenue; Acadia Apartments, 115th Street at 7th and St. Nicholas; Sans Souci Apartments, 30-32 West 124th Street; and the Lutheran Church of the Covenant - all in New York City. (Leslie's History of Greater New York)

It is fairly certain that the same Henry Andersen designed Thomas F. Walsh's residence in Washington, D.C. Walsh's daughter, Evalyn Walsh McLean, wrote that "The architect was Henry Anderson, well known in 1902, and he was told by Father just what was wanted..." (Father Struck It Rich, p. 91) Anderson was spelled with an "o" instead of an "e" in this passage. However, a rendering of the mansion illustrated in the same book was signed "Henry Andersen, Architect, 1183 Broadway, N.Y." The Trow Business Directory of the Boroughs of Manhattan and Bronx, City of New York listed "Henry Andersen, architect, 1183 Broadway" in 1902. From 1898 through 1904 only one Henry Andersen was listed in the New York City directories under architects; and his address was indicated as 1180, 1181 or 1183 Broadway.

Sources: Evalyn Walsh McLean, with Boyden Sparkes, Father Struck It Rich, Boston: Little, Brown, and Company, 1936.

Leslie's History of Greater New York, Vol. III, of the
Encyclopedia of New York Biography and Genealogy, New
York: Arkell Publishing Co., 1898.

G. Known Plans, Drawings, Elevations, etc.:

Plan of excavation. Ink on linen.

Filed with Permit No. 690, October 16, 1901

Rendering of 2020 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.

"Henry Andersen, Architect, 1183 Broadway, N.Y."

Father Struck It Rich, by Evalyn Walsh McLean, p. 98.

H. Important Old Views:

Photograph of exterior showing glazed carriage porch.

Massachusetts Avenue Heights, Washington, D.C., Its Whereabouts,
Its Purpose, Its Plan, and Its Attractiveness to Investor and
Homeseeker, New York: Ballard and Alvord, 1911. (Washingtoniana
Room, Martin Luther King Library, Washington, D.C.)

I. Residents:

1. City and telephone directories list the following tenants:

1902-1910	Thomas F. Walsh
1911	Mrs. Carrie B. Walsh
1912-1916	Edward Beale McLean
1917	Mrs. Carrie B. Walsh
1918	Vacant
1919	Charles P. Stone
1920-1930	Mrs. Carrie B. Walsh
1931-1935	Vacant
1936	U.S. Suburban Resettlement Administration
1937	U.S. Rural Electrification Commission
1938-1941	Vacant
1942-1951	American Red Cross, D.C. Chapter
1952-1972	Indonesian Embassy, Chancery

2. The following residents were included in volumes of The Elite
List: A Compilation of Selected Names of Residents of Washing-
ton City, D.C. and Ladies Shopping Guide:

1905	Mr. and Mrs. Thomas F. Walsh Mr. Vinson F. Walsh, Jr.
1906-1908	Mr. and Mrs. Thomas F. Walsh Miss Evalyn L. Walsh

1909-1911 Mr. and Mrs. Thomas F. Walsh
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Beale McLean

3. Biographies of the residents:

Thomas F. Walsh (1851-1910) was born in County Tipperary, Ireland. At the age of 19, he emigrated to the United States and two years later moved from Massachusetts to Colorado where he worked for a mining concern. As he saved money he would "grubstake" prospectors, and then become part owner of their mines when they struck gold. His own discovery and development of the Camp Bird Mine at Ouray, Colorado established him as the sole owner of one of the richest gold mines in the world. Mr. Walsh met and married the former Miss Carrie Bell Reed when he was a prospector.

In 1899 Thomas Walsh was appointed by President McKinley as one of the Commissioners from the United States to the Paris Exposition. While there, the Walshes entertained and traveled in lavish style. A Seine River steamer was converted into a "floating palace" on which a \$40,000 dinner party was given for a group of "distinguished" men. Then Mr. Walsh "chartered a train of five palace cars, fitted it with silk and decorations which he had used upon his steamer and commenced a tour of France and Belgium. The late King Leopold of Belgium met Mr. Walsh at Ostend." (The New York Times, 4-9-10) King Leopold was interested in having Mr. Walsh invest in mining ventures in the Congo.

The Walshes moved from Leadville, Colorado to Washington near the turn of the century. In 1897-1898 they lived in a suite of rooms at the Cochran Hotel on 14th Street near K Street, N.W.. They purchased a furnished home from Conrad and Anna Jenness Miller at 1825 Phelps Place, N.W., in December 1898.

On April 30, 1901 land was purchased for their new home on Massachusetts Avenue, N.W. The Evening Star, May 16, 1901 reported that grading of the ground at the southeast corner of Massachusetts Avenue had begun:

At present the lot is at a considerable height above the grade of the street...Owing to the extent of the space, which is about 150 feet square, this is an undertaking of some magnitude...It is probable...that the house, which will be of a size to correspond with the ample building space, will be constructed of stone, and will represent a high type of domestic architecture.

The Walsh residence is as large as the Star predicted it would be. It contains more than 50 rooms and includes a three story central stairhall with galleries.

One grand dame recalls that at the time the mansion was built she thought it 'very good, very rich, and very ugly.' She continued: 'The story was that Mr. Walsh admired the architect of a German steamer, so he had that stairway built like those on an ocean liner.' (The New York Times, 1-28-68)

According to Mrs. Evalyn Walsh McLean, daughter of Thomas F. Walsh, the house cost \$835,000 to build - exclusive of furnishings. Mrs. McLean wrote of the interior decorations:

My father had hired Mrs. Anna Jenness Miller to scout around and help my mother buy just what was needed for that house; it was a job that lasted several years...She even went abroad to get some choicer paintings and the bric-a-brac we needed. Rugs from Persia, and aquarelles from dealers in the Boulevard Poissonniere in Paris, and from the Avenue Louise in Brussels; sometimes her shipments came from Montreux, Switzerland. How the money went! (Father Struck It Rich, page 92)

On May 1, 1902 Thomas Walsh sold the Camp Bird mine for \$3,100,000 plus one fourth of the proceeds from the ore for \$2,000,000 more, as well as \$100,000 in stock.

On August 19, 1905 the Walsh's daughter Evalyn was injured and their son Vinson killed in an automobile accident at Newport, Rhode Island. Mr. Walsh died in April 1910.

Sources: American Biographical Directories, District of Columbia, 1908-1909, Washington, D.C.: The Potomac Press, 1908.

Evalyn Walsh McLean, with Boyden Sparkes, Father Struck It Rich, Boston: Little, Brown, and Company, 1936.

The Evening Star, 5-16-01, 16:5.

The Evening Star, 11-12-51, B3:1.

The New York Times, 4-09-10, 11:1 (obituary).

The New York Times, 1-28-68, 68:1.

The Sunday Star, 1-16-55, D4.

Times-Herald, 1-7-40, D8:1.

Edward Beale McLean, the son of John Roll and Emily Beale McLean, was born in Washington, D.C. in 1883. His father owned The Washington Post, The Cincinnati Enquirer, and for a while, the New York Morning Journal.

McLean eloped with Evalyn Walsh in 1908. Their first child,

Vinson Walsh McLean was born at 2020 Massachusetts Avenue in 1909 and was soon known as the million dollar baby because of the two fortunes to which he was heir. The McLeans received so many kidnapping threats that Vinson was never left alone. In 1919, while staying at "Friendship", the McLean family estate on Wisconsin Avenue, N.W., Vinson ran away from the servants and was killed by a car. The McLeans eventually had three other children - John R., Edward B., Jr., and Emily Beale McLean.

Edward McLean's father died in 1916 leaving his fortune of \$25,000,000 in trust until twenty years after the death of his son's children. Edward was barred from administering his father's estate until he brought suit and won editorial control of the two papers and management of the estate, though he was restricted to its income. (The New York Times, 7-28-41)

Through his newspapers, Mr. McLean became an influential man in the Republican party. He and his wife were often hosts to Senator and Mrs. Harding before the Presidential election; and when Harding was inaugurated in 1921, McLean served as head of the inaugural committee. While President, Harding was a guest of the McLeans at Palm Beach.

In 1924 McLean became involved in the Teapot Dome scandal concerning the leasing of naval oil reserves by the Department of Interior. As a favor for his friend, Albert B. Fall, Secretary of the Interior, McLean claimed that he had lent Fall \$100,000. Actually, Fall had received the money from Edward L. Doheny, an oil magnate. After an investigation, McLean admitted to a Senate committee that he had not made the loan, but he denied knowing anything about the scandal in which Fall and Doheny were involved. (The New York Times, 3-13-24)

In 1930 Edward McLean's wife sued him for separate maintenance - charging desertion and non-support. She was awarded 40 percent of his monthly income so long as her share did not exceed \$7,500. On October 4, 1933 she petitioned that a committee be appointed to manage her husband's finances. October 30, 1933 Edward McLean was declared insane and incapable of managing his affairs. He was confined to Shepard and Enoch Pratt Hospital at Towson, Maryland until his death in July 1941. (The New York Times, 7-28-41)

Sources: The Evening Star, 4-27-47, 1:2.
The New York Times, 3-13-24, pp. 1-2 (Teapot Dome Scandal).
The New York Times, 7-28-41, 13:1 (obituary).

Evalyn Walsh McLean (1887-1947), the daughter of Thomas F. Walsh and the wife of Edward B. McLean, was a well-known society figure in Washington, D.C.. She was also noted as the

last private owner of the 44 1/2 carat Hope Diamond.

The New York Times, January 29, 1911, reported the purchase of the diamond:

The sale was negotiated at Mr. McLean's residence 2020 Massachusetts Avenue by Pierre Cartier, of 712 Fifth Avenue, New York, the American representative of the jewelry firm of Cartier Frères, Paris...

The diamond will...be worn by Mrs. McLean as a head ornament arranged in a bandeau, the large stone being placed immediately in front with other diamonds of lesser size studding the setting bands...

The stone will be kept at the McLean mansion during the day and each night will be deposited in a safe deposit vault. When Mrs. McLean wears the gem at balls and receptions arrangements have been made to keep the safe deposit building open until after the function so that the stone may be safely stored away. A special automobile has been purchased to convey the guards to and from the trust company's building...

The Hope Diamond, now in the Smithsonian's Museum of Natural History, has a long history - from the Far East, to the courts of 17th century France, to England and the United States. Of its owners, some were either murdered, drowned, assassinated by revolutionaries or deserted by their wife - all of which led to the superstition that the diamond brought bad luck. Mrs. McLean never believed in this and wrote, "As a matter of fact, the luckiest thing about it is that, if I ever had to, I could hock it," which she did several times. (Father Struck It Rich, p. 179)

In 1932, Mrs. McLean was defrauded of \$104,000 by Gaston B. Means, once termed by J. Edgar Hoover as the "worst crook" he had ever known. (The Evening Star, 5-3-72) Means had convinced Mrs. McLean that he would be able to use the money to achieve the release of the kidnapped son of Charles A. Lindbergh. He was convicted of the swindle in 1932 and sentenced to 15 years in prison, but the money was never recovered.

Sources: Evalyn Walsh McLean, with Boyden Sparkes, Father Struck It Rich, Boston: Little, Brown, and Company, 1936.

The Evening Star, 4-27-47, 1:2 (obituary).
The Evening Star, 4-28-47, 1:5 (obituary).
The Evening Star, 5-03-72, 7:1.
The Sunday Star, Magazine, 5-17-59, p.2.
The Washington Daily News, 4-28-47, 3:5 (obituary).
The Washington Post, 4-30-47, 6:6 (obituary).
The Washington Post, Parade, 11-12-50, "Curse of the
'Hope'" by Frank DeBlois, p. 21.

J. Historical Events Connected with the Structure:

During the Theodore Roosevelt administration, the Walsh residence was the scene of some of the most lavish entertainment in Washington. The Evening Star, December 8, 1903 described one party.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas F. Walsh entertained at a dinner last night in their new home on Massachusetts Avenue which in every detail was one of the most sumptuous affairs ever given in the Capital...The dinner table was adorned with yellow orchids of a very beautiful variety, their coloring being the keynote to the superb decoration of the board, where a service of gold made from glittering nuggets taken from the Camp Bird Mine, was used for the first time. A recital on the organ in the music room was an accompaniment to dinner.

The guest list included Admiral Dewey; Senator and Mrs. Wetmore; Senator and Mrs. Hanna; Senator and Mrs. Depew, the Belgian Minister and Baroness Moncheur; Mr. and Mrs. Wayne MacVeagh; Mr. and Mrs. John B. Henderson (of Boundary Castle); Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Glover; Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Boardman; Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Nelson Page; and others.

On December 29, 1903 a small ball and cotillion was given in honor of Miss Alice Roosevelt, the daughter of the President. Evalyn Walsh, who was too young to attend, wrote about the affair:

The dancing began at eleven in the top floor ballroom, with its walls all yellow with brocade, with yellow hangings and yellow fabrics covering all the benches and chairs around the room. (Father Struck It Rich, p. 99)

Thomas Walsh often entertained on a grand scale. "At one New Year's Eve party 325 guests consumed 480 quarts of champagne, 288 fifths of Scotch, 48 quarts of cocktails, 40 gallons of beer and 35 bottles of miscellaneous liquors." (The New York Times, 1-28-68)

It was rumored that the Belgian King Leopold had accepted the Walshes' invitation to visit when he came to the United States in 1903 for the St. Louis Exposition. Mr. Walsh, in anticipation of the visit, supposedly rushed to complete the house. King Leopold never came to the United States, but his nephew, King Albert, and Queen Elizabeth came October 28, 1919 for three days. President Wilson was ill, so Vice President and Mrs. Marshall gave a state dinner at the Walsh mansion. Other guests at the dinner were the Duke of Brabant, later King Leopold III of the Belgians; the French Ambassador Jusserand and his wife; Chief Justice Edward Douglas White; Cabinet members, Senators and Representatives. After dinner, Queen Elizabeth presented Mrs. Walsh the "Order of Elizabeth, Queen of the Belgians" for her Belgian relief work during World War I. The Walsh house had been used by Washington volunteers to make garments for refugees. (The Evening Star, 10-29-19, 8:3)

Mrs. Walsh lived in the house until her death in 1932. Although her daughter Evalyn Walsh McLean inherited the house, she left it vacant since she was living at "Friendship". In August 1935 "2020" was rented to the Resettlement Administration. The newspapers reported that the government's New Deal agency paid \$1600 per month rent. (The Evening Star, 7-19-35)

When the government moved out in 1937, the house remained vacant until 1941 when Mrs. McLean gave it rent free to the Washington Chapter of the American Red Cross. Red Cross women manufactured over 100,000 surgical dressings per month there. Other Red Cross activities located in the house included classes for nurses aides, the War Fund drive, and the headquarters for emergency first aid and the mobile canteen. (The Evening Star, 1-17-42)

In 1942 Mrs. McLean, at her own expense, renovated and furnished her carriage house at the rear of 2118 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W. so that it could be used as a club for women government workers.

On December 19, 1951 the Indonesian government purchased 2020 Massachusetts Avenue for \$335,000. Although the building was to be used as a chancery, the Indonesians spent \$75,000 for renovations and tried to preserve the character of the interior decoration. (The Sunday Star, 1-16-55)

Sources: The Evening Star, 12-08-03, 5:6; 12-30-03, 5:5; 10-29-19, 8:3; 7-19-35, 2:5; 7-30-35, B1:5; 1-17-42, 16:2; 12-31-42, 2:2; 11-10-51, 3:2; 11-12-51, B3:1. The Sunday Star, 1-16-55, D4:5. The New York Times, 1-28-68, 68:1. The Washington Daily News, 6-28-37, 9:2. The Washington Herald, 8-8-35, 29:3. The Washington Post, 10-28-19, pp. 1-2; 10-29-19, 1:1, p. 3. Times-Herald, 1-7-40, D8:1; 6-12-40, 1:2; 7-17-45, 9:5.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This detached structure combines renaissance, baroque and rococo details within an art-nouveau parti. [Floor references follow the plans.]
2. Condition: well maintained, minor alterations not having effected the general scheme.

B. Exterior Description:

1. Overall dimensions: The three-and-one-half-story-plus-base-ment structure measures 64'-6" at its highest point. The 75'-0" north elevation (Massachusetts Avenue) begins at the east end with a three bay swell, followed by a composite entrance bay and a four bay bow rounding the northwest corner onto 21st Street. The 90'-0" west facade contains five additional bays, a carriage porch second from the north. At the western end of the south elevation are two bays with a second floor oriole, and at the eastern end a two bay swell. The east elevation has a projecting, single story, metal and glass conservatory below five upper bays, to the north of which is a second floor oriole.
2. Foundation: concrete footings and slab.
3. Wall construction: The building has a rock-faced granite base capped by a blind limestone balustrade which serves as first floor window sill. The upper walls are tan Roman brick divided by two limestone string courses: one at the impost of the first floor windows; the second, of cyma and corona, serving as second floor sill.
4. Structure: brick bearing walls.
5. Mechanical: The building is heated by a gravity rise hot air system. The lighting is electric. The dumbwaiter and passenger elevator are by Otis. The bank of kitchen ice boxes are by the Fritts Refrigeration Construction Company.
6. Porches, stoops, bulkheads, etc.: A rock-faced limestone base supports the marble columns for the 21st Street metal carriage porch which has a rosette frieze, ogee pediments and glazed vault. (The glazed panels between the columns have been removed.)

The rectangular terrace of the pedestrian entrance on Massachusetts Avenue is approached by two flights of stone risers. The terrace balustrade of urn balusters breaks out from the blind balustrade of the building wall. A second story loggia,

centered over the pedestrian entrance, has an urn-balustered balcony, marble Ionic columns which support semicircular arches with cartouche keystones, and a bracketed cornice.

The north and west first floor windows rest on shallow, bracketed and urn-balustered, limestone balconies. The north, south and east second floor windows have decorative cast iron balcony panels.

7. Chimney: Visible from the ground are eight, Roman brick chimneys (two on the east, two on the west, one each above the bow and both swells, and one above the two flush bays on the south) each with limestone quoins, a plain entablature frieze, a segmental pediment centered by an escutcheon, and a block cap.

8. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: The Massachusetts Avenue, Louis XVI, double door entrance, with a semicircular headed fan and side lights, has decorative rinceau cast iron grilles over plate glass. The limestone architrave is moulded, recessed and interrupted by a scrolled escutcheon keystone. The architrave sits in a limestone frame which swells at the center and flairs outward at the ends. Both ends are terminated by volute and swag columns. The full entablature architrave and frieze are interrupted by the semicircular-arched doorway architrave. The cornice breaks forward from the second story string course and acts as the loggia balcony.

From underneath the carriage porch nine stone risers ascend to the glazed double door with semicircular fan. The door is flanked by paired pilasters which share the first floor string course as capital.

- b. Windows: Both the first and second floor casements have Louis XVI, ogee and shell sashes. The first floor windows have engaged Ionic colonnettes which support semicircular arches with beaded jambs and decorative escutcheon keystones. The second story windows have beaded, limestone architraves each with a console-supported corona cornice. The double-hung, segmentally-arched, third story windows have crossette architraves and scroll keystones. The arches interrupt the architrave and frieze of the building entablature.

Exceptions to the above include:

- (1.) over the north entrance: the semicircular arches of the loggia.
- (2.) flanking the west entrance: single double-hung windows capped by blind panels, flanked by engaged columnettes and divided by the first floor string course from elliptical lunettes over swags.

- (3.) above the west entrance: single broken scroll and urn pedimented bay flanked by limestone scrolls with obelisk terminals.
- (4.) on the south elevation over the west bay: single second floor oriole with a limestone base and metal, segmental dome.
- (5.) on the east elevation: the elliptical conservatory with a granite base and blind, limestone balustrade, capped by a row of paired windows which share stained-glass transoms. The paired windows are separated by cast iron, Corinthian columnettes which support an iron cornice capped by anthemion filigree and a segmental, copper dome.
- (6.) on the east elevation over the north bay: single, second floor, five bay oriole, treated as the conservatory though having an ogee roof and lacking cornice filigree. The base is formed by the second story string course.

9. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: The red tile mansard roof, consistent with the wall curvature, is capped by copper flashing with an embossed circle motif, behind which the roofing is built-up.
- b. Cornice, eaves: The entablature has an architrave, a striated frieze, and a dentil and bracket cornice capped by a continuous limestone balcony of urn balusters with swag panels at the chimneys and corners.
- c. Dormers, cupolas, towers: The built-up roof is pierced by a skylight, approximately 20'-0" wide by 40'-0" long, and carries the former roof garden. The fourth floor dormers are double-hung and fanlighted. Between each dormer is an oculus. The dormers and oculi are capped by limestone hoods with scroll and shell keystones and volute label stops.

C. Interior Description:

- 1. Floor plans: All first, second and third floor rooms radiate from the three story, galleried and skylit central hall. On axis with the first floor north entrance is the central hall and stair, and the south dining room. On the northeast is the drawing room, connected to the southeast organ room, both with access to the east conservatory. On the northwest is the parlor, connected to the carriage porch entrance room (a service area and central hall elevator between the west entrance and dining room). (See plan.)

Screened by the south walls of the second and third floors in the central hall are straight-run stairs. The bedrooms are connected by baths and family rooms. The northeast and northwest second floor bedrooms and connecting baths share a gallery giving access to the loggia over the north entrance.

The fourth floor has servants' quarters, a billiard room and a ballroom, one wall of which looks over the top of the Tiffany-style skylight illuminating the central hall. Over the first is a second skylight in the fourth floor roof.

2. Spaces:

North entrance:

- a. Walls: pink marble with marble settees in east and west walls.
- b. Ceiling: 15'-0" high, gilded plaster, rosettes within squares within octagonal coffers.
- c. Doorways and doors: The oak, double door to the hall has a fanlight and flanking, fluted Ionic pilasters.
- d. Lighting: Over either settee is a convex, fish scale, art-nouveau sconce of milk glass within a bronze, fruit swag, dolphin and flambeau surround. (See detail photograph.)

Central hall: (described in four sections: stair, first floor, first gallery and second gallery. See photographs.)

Stair:

The freestanding, "Y" shaped, art-nouveau central stair ascends south 17 risers from a flaired base to an orchestra landing where a canvas sounding screen allows music to be heard in the dining room to the south. The screen forms the wall between the stair and dining room. From the landing the stair divides and ascends east and west 15 risers to the south bays of the second floor gallery. Mahogany, escutcheon and spray balustrade panels are separated by panelled pilasters. The handrails terminate in low acanthus leaf statuary bases.

Ground floor:

- a. Flooring: basket weave with triangular parquet border.
- b. Baseboard: 6", with cyma cap.
- c. Dado: wood with flat panels in bolection moulding.

- d. Chairrail: 2'-6" high, wood, beaded fascia.
- e. Walls: Plaster panels are set within (gilded) egg and dart, fascia, and (gilded) anthemion applied mouldings with decorative corner treatments. The doorways are flanked by wood, fluted composite pilasters on pedestals.
- f. Cornice: The 15'-0" high, plaster ceiling, formed by the second floor gallery at the north, has gilded floral patterns in octagonal coffers within guilloche bands.
- g. Doorways and doors: The east and west walls have two sets of opposed double doors (two with access to the drawing room, one to the parlor and one to the west entrance room). The south wall has a double door to the dining room. Each has a panel over the door with a fleur-de-lis arabesque cap. There is a single door to the organ room and one to the elevator.
- h. Hardware: gold-plated, inset door pulls.
- i. Lighting: There are six, 2'-0" high, five-branched, gilded-bronze, flambeau sconces, each branch holding a pair of lights in glass rose petals. The light switches are concealed in the millwork.

First gallery:

- a. Baseboard: 6", wood with cyma cap.
- b. Dado: wood with flat panels in bead moulding.
- c. Chairrail: wood, double fascia.
- d. Walls: Plaster panels are set within (gilded) egg and dart, fascia and (gilded) anthemion applied mouldings with decorative corner treatments.
- e. Wall cornice: plaster; gilded, fruit and winged figure frieze, and fascia.
- f. Gallery: supported by the ground floor cornice is an escutcheon and spray panel balustrade interrupted by wood pedestals and fluted composite columns.
- g. Gallery ceiling: plaster, geometric coffers in gilded and applied, bead and bay leaf, pulvinated mouldings.
- h. Gallery cornice: The full entablature of wood has a fascia architrave, panel frieze and modillion cornice.
- i. Doorways and doors: The wood doors each have corner rosette panels, a fascia architrave, a wreath and spray panel over the door, and an egg and dart cornice.

- j. Hardware: gold-plated oval door knobs.
- k. Lighting: five-light brass sconces.

Second gallery:

- a. Baseboard: 6", wood with cyma cap.
- b. Dado: wood with flat panels in bead moulding.
- c. Walls: Plaster panels are set within (gilded) egg and dart, fascia and (gilded) anthemion applied mouldings with decorative corner treatments.
- d. Ceiling cornice: plaster; gilded, fruit and winged figure frieze, fascia.
- e. Gallery: Supported by the first gallery cornice is an escutcheon and spray panel balustrade interrupted by panelled stops.
- f. Ceiling: plaster, geometric coffers in gilded and applied, bead and bay leaf, pulvinated mouldings. The hall is covered by a coved, stained-glass, three-panelled skylight having an oval, floral centerpiece on an ochre field.
- g. Doorways and doors: The single panel doors have crossette architraves, wreath and spray panels over the doors and cyma cornices.
- h. Lighting: incandescent fixtures above the skylight.

Dining room: (see photograph)

- a. Flooring: basket weave parquetry.
- b. Baseboard: 8", wood with cyma cap.
- c. Wainscot: The 9'-0" high wainscot has flat panels in egg and dart mouldings, topped by a row of applied rinceau panels separated by scroll consoles, and capped by a bead, corona and cyma cornice.
- d. Buffet: The west wall 9'-0" high, wood buffet, has a beaded baseboard, candelabra dado panels, separated by columnettes and terminated at the ends by spiral Ionic columns on bulbous bases, and a decorative ovolo counter. The counter back wall is divided into three sections: the center a mirror flanked by terms; the ends panels terminated by decorative columnettes supporting a gouge frieze. Over the frieze is a central mirror flanked by glazed cabinets. The three sections are separated by volute and swag terms. The cabinets are terminated by decorative, Ionic columnettes which support an egg and dart architrave and a central

frieze capped by a modillion, corona, and egg and dart cornice. Over the central cornice is a tapestry flanked by panelled Ionic pilasters which support a corona and cyma cornice.

- e. Walls: plaster painted green, except stair landing screen and tapestries.
- f. Cornice: dentil architrave and painted rinceau, urn and flambeau, panel frieze.
- g. Ceiling: 15'-0" high, wood with quatrefoil, square and diamond coffers in the 17th century English manner.
- h. Doorways and doors: Wood double doors are set in the lower section of the wainscot.
- i. Windows: The windows, with semicircular arches and rinceau spandrels, are flanked by 5'-0" high pedestals with short, urn and volute columns which support plain panels capped by a rinceau frieze, and a corona and cyma cornice.
- j. Lighting: There are four, two-light, bronze escutcheon sconces with reeded cornucopia arms. There is a two-tier, twelve-light crystal arm, pendant and drape chandelier. The light switches are concealed in the millwork.
- k. Heating: The south wall oak chimney mantel has a blue and green floral tile firebox surround with a brass rinceau tile guard. Flanking rinceau pedestals support cartouche-panelled pilasters and acanthus modillions between cavetto and cushion pilasters. The overmantel mirror is flanked by bulbous bases for cushion and volute columns which support a rinceau frieze, a modillion, egg and dart, corona and cyma cornice, and a tapestry flanked by panelled, composite pilasters, capped by an egg and dart, corona and cyma cornice.

Entrance room:

- a. Flooring: basket weave parquetry.
- b. Baseboard: 6", wood with cyma cap.
- c. Dado: wood with flat panels in cyma moulding.
- d. Chairrail: 2'-6" high, wood, fascia and cyma.
- e. Walls: plaster painted white. The doors and windows are flanked by wood, fluted composite pilasters on pedestals. At the west wall is a 12'-0" high, gilded rocaille mirror with a flower basket cap.
- f. Cornice: pulvinated architrave and baroque escutcheon corners.

- g. Ceiling: 15'-0" high, plaster painted white.
- h. Doorways: Each wood double door has a panelled frieze and fleur-de-lis arabesque cap.
- i. Hardware: gold-plated door pulls and handles.
- j. Lighting: There are 2'-0" high, five-branched, gilded bronze, flambeau sconces. Each branch holds a pair of lights in glass rose petals. The light switches are concealed in the millwork.
- k. Heating: The west wall chimney has a marble hearth with rectangular insets. The green marble mantel has a torus firebox surround of bundled-leaf ormolu framed by a marble bolection in a crossette architrave with floral ormolu pendants at the corners. The architrave is capped by a ribbon and leaf ormolu torus, a shallow marble hood with ormolu acanthus mounts, and an enriched ormolu lip terminated by a marble block cap. (See detail photograph.)

Northwest parlor:

- a. Flooring: basket weave parquetry,
- b. Baseboard: 6", with cyma cap.
- c. Walls: plaster. Mirrors in applied mouldings alternate with tapestries in rocaille panels.
- d. Ceiling: plaster, coved, cherub frescos.
- e. Windows: The windows have broken-scrolled pediments capped by panels of shepherds and shepherdesses.
- f. Hardware: gold-plated door pulls.
- g. Lighting: recent crystal chandelier. The light switches are concealed in the millwork.
- h. Heating: The northwest corner chimney has a bronze-finished, wood, rocaille mantel.

Drawing room: (see photograph)

- a. Flooring: basket weave with diamond parquetry border.
- b. Baseboard: 8", with bead cap.
- c. Dado: flat panels.
- d. Chairrail: 2'-6" high, bead, fascia and cyma.

- e. Walls: pink damask. Flanking the openings and at the room corners are Corinthian candelabra pilasters on pedestals which in turn are flanked by secondary pilasters supporting concave, tobacco leaf scrolls. At the west wall is a rocaille triptych mirror with pulvination, and lattice and wreath ornaments.
- f. Cornice: alternating flambeau, shell, spray and swag panels interrupted by gilded brackets.
- g. Ceiling: 15'-0" high, plaster painted pink, green and gold. The ceiling border has rocaille cartouches, escutcheons, swags, shells and sprays; the center has a curvilinear canvas in the late 18th century manner with a pulvinated leaf surround.
- h. Doorways and doors: The sliding double doors are mirror panelled. The glazed conservatory door has a semicircular arch with tobacco leaf spandrels and panelled jamb.
- i. Hardware: gold-plated rocaille door pulls.
- j. Lighting: five-light brass sconces.
- k. Heating: The east wall chimney has a cream onyx mantel in rocaille with flanking consoles and overmantel triptych mirror similar to that on the west wall.

Organ room: (see photographs)

- a. Flooring: basket weave parquetry.
- b. Baseboard: 8", wood with cyma cap.
- c. Display cases: There are 6'-0" high, built in cabinets of wood with glass doors and rinceau splash boards.
- d. Walls: green damask.
- e. Organ: At the east wall is a 14'-6" high, baroque-style wood organ with flanking rinceau panels, curved at the ends. Over the keyboard and panels, the pipe sections have wreath, musical instrument and floral carvings.
- f. Cornice: 2'-6" high, gilded, plaster rinceau frieze.
- g. Ceiling: 15'-0" high, plaster painted pink, green and blue. The ceiling border is divided by beams into gilded rocaille cartouche and escutcheon panels. The central quatrefoil of rinceau and rosette bands is outlined in wood and broken by plaster ceiling fixture escutcheons at either end.

- h. Doorways and doors: The semicircular-arched windows and conservatory door have floral spandrels. Flanking each arch are panelled composite pilasters which support staggered entablatures that interrupt the room frieze. The remaining doors with flat lintels terminate below the room frieze.
- i. Hardware: gold-plated door handles.
- j. Lighting: There are two, five-petal, mother-of-pearl chandeliers, with bronze and gilded rocaille filigree and pendant. The lights are hung by five chains with connecting swags. The light switches are concealed in the millwork.
- k. Heating: The south wall chimney mantel has a swan and rinceau, copper firebox surround and flanking pairs of composite columns which support a bead architrave, a triglyph and escutcheon metope frieze and a bead shelf. The overmantel has a round panel with rocaille spandrels. The panel is flanked by rocaille mirrors between composite columnettes on pedestals.

D. Site:

- 1. Setting and orientation: The building faces north on a lot measuring 152'-3" on the north (Massachusetts Avenue); 96'-6" on the east; 100'-0" on the south; and 150'-0" on the west (21st Street).
- 2. Enclosures: The grounds and sidewalks are separated by a 6" curb.
- 3. Outbuildings: At the south is a one story, flat-roofed wing at basement level, connected to the main block by a passageway.
- 4. Walks: A north walk leads from the sidewalk between two stone posts to the entrance steps and terrace. The west drive passes in an arc under the carriage porch. A service drive and entrance are located in the rear, at the kitchen-basement area.
- 5. Landscaping: Adjacent to the conservatory and exposed to the street is an east garden. The surrounding lawns contain young trees, and shrubs line the north walk and west driveway.

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This document, made from records donated to the Historic American Buildings Survey by the Commission of Fine Arts, 708 Jackson Place, N.W., Washington, D. C., represents studies of prime, typical, diversified and sumptuous architecture erected primarily between the years 1890 and 1930, when American society and architecture were greatly influenced by the Ecole des Beaux-Arts. The material, originally organized for adaptation to the Historic American Buildings Survey format, was first published in Massachusetts Avenue Architecture, Vol. 1, 1973, issued by the Commission of Fine Arts, Charles H. Atherton, Secretary; Donald B. Myer, Assistant Secretary; Jeffrey R. Carson, Architectural Historian; Lynda L. Smith, Historian; and J. L. Sibley Jennings, Jr., Architect. Photographs were made for the Commission by Jack E. Boucher, Linwood, New Jersey; J. Alexander, Wheaton, Maryland; and the Commission of Fine Arts Staff. The material, donated December 1973, was coordinated for the HABS documentation in 1978 by Lucy Pope Wheeler, HABS Writer/Editor.

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